

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 MCT-01 HA-05 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11
/127 W

-----129118 021501Z /44

R 011040Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9236
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 8106

E.OO. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, OAU, XA
SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
AND SUMMIT CONFERENCES

REF: (A) STATE 163024, (B) LAGOS 7710

1. IN OUR VIEW, IT WILL SERVE NO CONSTRUCTIVE
PURPOSE FOR US AT THIS TIME TO APPROACH THE
FMG FURTHER ON THE MIDDLE EAST. AS MEA
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION DIRECTOR SANU MADE
CLEAR IN HIS MEETING WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY DALLEY, THE FMG WILL NOT DEVIATE
FROM NAM POSITIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND,
IN ANY CASE, FEELS THAT ISRAEL HAS BEEN
"INTRANSIGENT."

2. ON THE ZIONISM-RACISM LINKAGE, AS REPORTED
IN REF A, DALLEY INFORMED SANU THAT WE WOULD
NOT BE PARTICIPATING IN THE GENEVA MID DECADE
MEETING IN AUGUST BECAUSE IN OUR VIEW THE
LINKAGE MADE IN THE 1975 RESOLUTION HAD NOT BEEN
BROKEN. IN REPLY, SANU SAID THE LINKAGE HAD
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INDEED BEEN BROKEN BY OMISSION ON SEVERAL
OCCASIONS INCLUDING THE AUGUST 1977 LAGOS ANTI-
APARTHEID CONFERENCE. WHILE NOTING SANU'S POINT,
DALLEY REPLIED THAT THE LAGOS
MEETING DID NOT FALL COMPLETELY UNDER THE
UMBRELLA OF THE 1975 RESOLUTION AND, IN ANY CASE,
OMISSION OF MENTION OF THE LINKAGE DID NOT

CONSTITUTE BREAKING IT IN OUR VIEW. FOR THE
USG, THE LINKAGE WOULD NOT BE BROKEN UNTIL AN
AFFIRMATIVE REPUDIATION OF IT WAS MADE.
NEVERTHELESS, DALLEY ADDED, WE WERE HOPEFUL
THAT THE LINKAGE WOULD NOT BE REPEATED AT GENEVA.
AT THAT POINT, SANU REITERATED THAT THE US COULD
NOT EXPECT NIGERIA "TO STICK ITS NECK OUT"
IN GENEVA IF THE US WERE NOT EVEN WILLING TO
ATTEND THE CONFERENCE.

3. WITH THAT IN MIND, WE CANNOT JUDGE POSSIBLE
UTILITY OF APPROACHING SANU ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED IN REF A
UNTIL WE RECEIVE CLARIFICATION CONCERNING THE TALKING
POINT "...WE WILL BE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN
THE WORLD CONFERENCE UNLESS THE LINK WITH ZIONISM-RACISM
CAN BE BROKEN." IF BREAKING THE LINK IS A
PRECONDITION FOR US PARTICIPATION, WE ARE NOT
CLEAR AS TO HOW THIS COULD BE DONE INSTITUTIONALLY
PRIOR TO THE AUGUST MEETING, AND WE WOULD
EXPECT SANU TO MAKE THAT POINT. FURTHERMORE,
IS IT TRUE THAT USG HAS NOT YET MADE DEFINITIVE DECISION WHETHER
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AUGUST CONFERENCE IN GENEVA? THAT
POINT WILL CERTAINLY INTEREST SANU.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: CLARIFICATION OF POINTS
NOTED ABOVE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUMMIT MEETINGS, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LAGOS08106
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780273-0440
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197807103/aaaadiqb.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fa65566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 163024, 78 LAGOS 7710
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1854590
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND SUMMIT CONFERENCES
TAGS: PORG, XA, OAU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fa65566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014